

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-23 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute new Claims 24-47 therefor as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled).

24. (New) A method for evaluating download performance of web pages accessible via a network comprising the steps of:

providing at least one model for predicting a set of download performance parameters for said web pages, said at least one model including at least one optimisation parameter;

defining a set of same web pages;

measuring said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages;

evaluating said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages on the basis of said model for different values of said at least one optimisation parameter;

defining an error indicative of the difference between said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages as measured and as evaluated on the basis of said model, respectively;

selecting an optimised model including a value of said at least one optimisation parameter in order to reduce said error below a predetermined value;

selecting a set of use web pages; and

evaluating said set of download performance parameters for said selected set of use web pages on the basis of said optimised model.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said set of download performance parameters comprises at least one parameter selected from a group:

download time for a given web page, and  
an efficiency index indicative of how said given web page exploits the capacity of said network.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one model includes at least one parameter selected from a group:

the throughput of said network,  
the round trip time of said network, and  
at least one of the type and size of each object included in said web pages.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said sample web pages are selected as a statistically meaningful set of the web pages available for downloading via said network.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one model is selected by taking into account at least one threshold related to operational parameters of said network.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, comprising the steps of providing in said network at least one server having a respective processing time and said at least one threshold is a function of said processing time.

30. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

defining, for each sample page in said set of sample pages, a partial error indicative of the difference between said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages as measured and as evaluated on the basis of said model, respectively;

determining from the partial errors defined for each sample page in said set of sample pages a global prediction error; and

selecting said optimised model including a value of said at least one optimisation parameter minimising said global prediction error.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising the steps of defining said global prediction error as one of a mean value and a peak value of the partial errors defined for each sample page in said set of sample pages.

32. (New) The method of claim 24, comprising the step of providing different types of said at least one model for different types of said network.

33. (New) A method of evaluating download times of web pages accessible via a network, comprising the steps of:

evaluating said download times on the basis of at least one model comprising a module for evaluating the sum of:

at least one first factor determined analytically on the basis of network (b, 1) and web page (n, d, h) parameters; and

a second factor being a function of an optimisation parameter ( $\lambda$ ).

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said second factor is a function of hyperbolic type.

35. (New) The method of claim 26 or claim 33, wherein said at least one model corresponds to the following relationship:

$$t = \left( \frac{nd}{b} \right) + \left( \frac{nh}{b} + 2l + \frac{(n-1)l}{\lambda} \right)$$

where  $t$  is the total download time of the page,  $n$  is the number of objects therein,  $d$  is the average size for its objects,  $b$  is the downstream throughput,  $h$  is the dimension of the HTTP headers,  $l$  is the network round trip time and  $\lambda$  is said at least one optimisation parameter.

36. (New) A system for evaluating download performance of web pages accessible via a network, comprising:

first data base items defining at least one model for predicting a set of download performance parameters for said web pages, said at least one model including at least one optimisation parameter;

second data base items defining a set of sample web pages;

measuring tools for measuring said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages;

a predictor for evaluating said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages on the basis of said model for different values of said at least one optimisation parameter;

an optimiser module for defining an error indicative of the difference between said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages as measured and as evaluated on the basis of said model, respectively, said optimiser module being

configured for selecting an optimized model including a value of said at least one optimisation parameter able to reduce said error below a predetermined value; and

third data base items indicative of a selected set of use web pages,

said predictor being configured for evaluating said set of download performance parameters for said selected set of use web pages on the basis of said optimised model.

37. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein said set of download performance parameters comprises at least one parameter selected from a group:

download time for a given web page, and

an efficiency index indicative of how said given web page exploits the capacity of said network.

38. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein said at least one model comprises at least one parameter selected from a group:

the throughput of said network,

the round trip time of said network, and

at least one of the type and size of each object included in said web pages.

39. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein said second data base items are configured for defining sample web pages comprising a statistically meaningful set of the web pages available for downloading via said network.

40. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein said optimiser module is configured for:

defining, for each sample page in said set of sample pages, a partial error indicative of the difference between said set of download performance parameters for said sample web pages as measured and as evaluated on the basis of said model, respectively;

determining, from the partial errors defined for each sample page in said set of sample pages, a global prediction error; and

selecting said optimised model including a value of said at least one optimisation parameter minimising said global prediction error.

41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein said optimiser module is configured for defining said global prediction error as one of a mean value and a peak value of the partial errors defined for each sample page in said set of sample pages.

42. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein said first data base items are representative of different types of said at least one model for different types of said network.

43. (New) A system for evaluating download times of web pages accessible via a network, comprising:

data base items defining at least one model for evaluating said download times, said model comprising a module for evaluating the sum of:

at least one first factor determined analytically on the basis of network (b, 1) and web page (n, d, h) parameters; and

a second factor being a function of an optimisation parameter ( $\lambda$ ).

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein said second factor is a function of hyperbolic type.

45. (New) The system of claim 38 or claim 43, wherein said at least one model corresponds to the following relationship:

$$t = \left( \frac{nd}{b} \right) + \left( \frac{nh}{b} + 2l + \frac{(n-1)l}{\lambda} \right)$$

where  $t$  is the total download time of the page,  $n$  is the number of objects therein,  $d$  is the average size for its objects,  $b$  is the downstream throughput,  $h$  is the dimension of the HTTP headers,  $l$  is the network round trip time and  $\lambda$  is said at least one optimisation parameter.

46. (New) A computer program product directly loadable into the memory of a computer and including software code portions for performing the steps of any one of claims 24 to 34 when the product is capable of being run on a computer.

47. (New) A computer program product directly loadable into the memory of a computer and including software code portions for performing the steps of claim 35 when the product is capable of being run on a computer.